



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
1401 DESHLER STREET SW
FORT MCPHERSON, GA 30330-2000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

24 JAN 2007

ARRC-PR

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Chiefs of Staff, G-1, USAR Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Welcome Home/Veterans' Bonuses

1. Currently, there are several states that are offering some type of Welcome Home or Veterans' bonus for veterans returning from overseas tours:

a. Massachusetts is offering a one-time \$500 or \$1,000 tax-free bonus for servicemembers activated since 11 Sep 01. Active Component, Army Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers are all eligible for this bonus. Those who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan will receive \$1,000, and a CONUS tour of 6 months or more qualifies for \$500. For more information, visit <http://www.mass.gov/treasury/veteransbonus/welcomehomebonus.htm> or call the Massachusetts Treasurer's office at 617-367-9333.

b. The South Dakota Veterans Bonus program dates back to World War I. This program provides up to \$500 for South Dakota residents who serve on Active Duty in support of the Global War on Terror and includes the Army Reserve as well as National Guard and Active Component. See http://www.state.sd.us/military/welcome_home_veterans_benefits.htm for more details.

c. West Virginia enacted House Bill 2285: Veterans' Bonus Amendment of 2004. This law offers cash bonuses to veterans of Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. To qualify, individuals must reside in West Virginia for at least 6 months prior to active service. Soldiers receiving other than honorable discharges are not eligible. Veterans who are residents of West Virginia are eligible for a lump sum payment of either \$400 or \$600, depending on whether the veteran served a combat tour. Eligibility criteria and instructions for submission are located at <http://www.wvs.state.wv.us/va/forms.htm>.

2. Additional bonuses may be available in other states. Eligibility criteria for these and any other bonuses is determined at the state level. Units should contact their respective state Veterans' Administration office or state treasury department to inquire about the availability of bonuses.

3. Please disseminate this information down to your subordinate commands at the lowest level. Commanders should take care to ensure that all currently mobilized and previously mobilized Soldiers are aware of these programs.

4. The point of contact for this notice is MAJ Greg Eldred, AR G-1 Strategic Communications Office, at 404-464-8916 or greg.eldred@usar.army.mil.

f. Anshetty, Dec 6-1
CORRINA M. BOGGESS
Colonel, GS
Army Reserve G-1